

In the Claims:

Please amend the amended claims attached to the International Preliminary Report On Patentability as follows:

1-11 (canceled)

12. (new) A method for charging particles in a flame process, which particles are used for processing of an optical material, the method comprising:

supplying a gaseous reactant;

electrically charging an oxidizing gas; and

supplying the oxidizing gas in the reactant,

wherein the reactant and the oxidizing gas form charged particles immediately when oxidizing gas is supplied to the reactant.

13. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the oxidizing gas is charged in a nozzle by means of which gas is conveyed to the space comprising oxidizing material.

14. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the oxidizing gas, whose flow rate is 80 to 300 m/s, is charged by means of a corona charger.

15. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the oxidizing gas, whose flow rate is 80 to 300 m/s, is charged by means of a corona charger.

16. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the material to be processed is a fiber preform or another multicomponent oxide construction or a titanium oxide construction.

17. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the material to be processed is a fiber preform or another multicomponent oxide construction or a titanium oxide construction.

18. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the material to be processed is a fiber preform or another multicomponent oxide construction or a titanium oxide construction.

19. (new) The method according to claim 15, wherein the material to be processed is a fiber preform or another multicomponent oxide construction or a titanium oxide construction.

20. (new) A particle charging device for forming particles in a flame process, which particles are used at least for processing of an optical material, the charging device comprising:

- a channel for supplying a gaseous reactant;
- a channel for supplying oxidizing gas; and
- a charging member operative to charge the oxidizing gas electrically,

wherein after the charging member the channel of the oxidizing gas is connected to a space, to which the channel supplying the reactant is connected, to form electrically charged particles immediately when the oxidizing gas is supplied to the reactant.

21. (new) The charging device according to claim 20, wherein the charging member is

a corona charger.

22. (new) The charging device according to claim 21, wherein the charging member is a corona charger.

23. (new) The charging device according to claim 20, wherein the channel of oxidizing gas is connected to the channel of the reactant at least by means of one nozzle to convey the oxidizing gas to the channel of the reactant.

24. (new) The charging device according to claim 21, wherein the channel of oxidizing gas is connected to the channel of the reactant at least by means of one nozzle to convey the oxidizing gas to the channel of the reactant.

25. (new) The charging device according to claim 22, wherein the channel of oxidizing gas is connected to the channel of the reactant at least by means of one nozzle to convey the oxidizing gas to the channel of the reactant.

26. (new) The charging device according to claim 23, wherein the nozzle is designed to taper in such a manner that the speed of the gas flowing therethrough is increased.

27. (new) The charging device according to claim 24, wherein the nozzle is designed to taper in such a manner that the speed of the gas flowing therethrough is increased.

28. (new) The charging device according to claim 25, wherein the nozzle is designed to taper in such a manner that the speed of the gas flowing therethrough is increased.

29. (new) The charging device according to claim 23, wherein the nozzle comprises a charging member.

30. (new) The charging device according to claim 20, further comprising:  
a first gas supply channel in which a charging member is arranged to charge the gas; and  
a second gas supply channel that surrounds the first gas supply channel.

31. (new) The charging device according to claim 20, further comprising:  
a first gas supply channel;  
a second gas supply channel surrounding the first gas supply channel; and  
a charging member arranged in the second gas supply channel to charge the gas.